5 September 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National
                 Intelligence Officers

SUBJECT   : Potential Crisis Data Base Survey

1. Having developed a list of potential crisis
situations involving a number of countries, we will
want to complete a definitive list as soon as possible
in order that we can get on with the project; specifi-
cally the task of surveying what we have in the data
base area.

2. I am suggesting that we get together a small
group of persons with Community access to form an in-
formal working group. I envisage some of these persons
as being assistant NIOs. I am not excluding the NIOs,
but realizing that they have other things to do, I would
prefer to work through the assistants if possible. The
work, of course, would be expected to have the review
of the responsible NIOs.

3. Given the list of so-called "crisis areas"
that we have now, I think we can begin at once to pro-
ceed with an investigation of the data bases expected
to support special analytical effort as these areas
begin to heat up. We have already been overtaken by
the Cyprus situation.

4. In this context I think it would be wise to
differentiate those crisis situations which might in-
volve Soviet forces from those which probably never
would or would not be expected to.

5. In terms of a data base survey there are
several areas which to my way of thinking need be
addressed as soon as possible. In fact I consider
this information preliminary and requisite to the
completion of other tasks. Some of these questions
are:

   - What are the intelligence requirements of a
     crisis area data base?

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- Against what is required, how much information is currently available in data base material?

- What categories of information should ideally be included in a crisis area data base?

- Who is responsible for maintaining data base files?

- Who should be responsible for maintaining data base files?

- Are sufficient resources currently allocated for building adequate data bases that can support the analysis effort in time of crisis?

- How accessible is existing data base material? Can it be produced in a readily useable form?

- Would it be desireable to have a single system for data base information which could be used by all consumers?

6. These are only some of the questions which should be looked at. I am sure that others will come to light as we move along. Initially, I would like to be able to prepare a paper for the DCI which will describe for him just what our community data base problem is. First, in terms of what we have available to us now, plus a statement as to its overall utility. Following that I would like to very candidly point out where the weaknesses are and finally what steps or actions he should implement to bring it all in line with community-wide needs.

7. As you can readily perceive, this is a complicated task. It will require a high degree of cooperation, and I would like to march on with it without delay because the longer we delay the more complicated it gets. What say you?

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